

# The Alpha.

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Human Rights before all Laws and Constitutions.—Gerrit Smith.  
The Divine Right of Every Child to be Well Born.

VOL. XIII.

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NO. 6

## THE WOMANS' LABOR QUESTION.

### HOW WE WON WEALTH AND INDEPENDENCE.

"Well, Miss Sutton," said Mr. Jackson, drawing a large arm-chair towards the bright fire, that was blazing in the wide, old-fashioned office grate "you are out early this morning, but you see I got here before you. Tell me what I can do for you, you have come to consult me, I hope? Nothing like asking old folk's advice, even if you do not follow it, it flatters their vanity and gives you a becoming air of youthful helplessness which is very charming."

"Thank you very much. I do want your professional help and your friendly counsel; though American girls are not taught to think helplessness anything but pitiable weakness, to be overcome if possible and kept out of sight."

"Quite right, quite right, men's pride is fed at too costly a price when it is paid for with woman's dependence. I am an old heretic by inherited prejudice, but a modern reformer on principle. Now how can I serve you?"

"We wish to take five of the eight houses now standing empty in C— square. They are fortunately adjoining each other, and I should like to throw them into one. If you would examine the leases, which have recently fallen in, and make as good a bargain with the owner for repairs and decorations, as you can I should be much obliged to you."

"But, if I may venture to ask, what are you going to do with five family mansions at once. Do your sisters think of setting up separate establishments?"

"We have determined to open a co-operative home, where people can have private rooms, and attendance, at a cheaper rate than they can be supplied at hotels and boarding-houses. We think of managing it ourselves, and hope to be able in this manner to increase our income now, and earn enough money to live together in comfort in our old age if we wish to do so. There is a notice on a board outside these empty houses to the effect that decorations, etc., will be made to suit the taste of the incoming tenant. And to carry out

our plan we shall want some alterations made in the houses, and of course we are quite prepared to pay part of the cost of such alterations, the landlord paying the rest. I do not know whether you could help us by drawing out an agreement that our mutual responsibilities might be made quite clear?"

"Certainly whatever you agree to must be put down in writing. Perhaps you would like me to see the owner of the property for you."

"Very much indeed, if it would not be troubling you. I have seen Mr. Allen, the agent of the owner, and explained to him what I want done, he seems a reasonable man and I do not think we shall have much difficulty in coming to terms, but I told him I must consult you before going any farther into the matter. I thought he seemed to like the idea of leasing five of the houses to one person; and he said no objection would be raised to the use I proposed to put them."

"There seems to be a great risk in opening so large a place I fear."

"I do not think there will be much, and a large establishment can be worked at a much less proportional cost than a small one, and I reckon on this as one of the principal sources of profit. I could not hope to do any better than ordinary house-keepers if I followed the old system, and it is chiefly on the increased power that co-operation will give, that I rely for a good return for the capital and labor I propose to invest in the undertaking, though of course, much care and some anxiety will be attached to the execution of my plan."

"May I be permitted to hear it?"

"I am afraid it will take too long to give you more than a rough outline. I propose having the five houses thrown into one, doing away with all superfluous domestic offices, kitchens, halls, staircases, etc. I find by a careful calculation, which I have made, with the aid of a builder, that out of the five houses, rearranged in the manner I have suggested, we should get nine large airy rooms on each side of the wide passage, which would run the length of the house, with a fine hall and broad staircase at one end. That is to say there would be eighteen good rooms on each floor, besides bath-



room, housemaid's, cupboard, etc. The houses in the square have three stories, ground floor, and basement, which would give altogether eighty-three rooms; with bathrooms, etc., on each landing. By the introduction of certain domestic contrivances, and the arrangement of work upon a plan of my own, which I hope to show you some day in full operation, we reckon that one woman can do the cleaning, and supervision necessary in eighteen rooms. A twelve-room house, arranged in the usual manner, gives work to two persons to keep it clean, so I think I have a right to feel confident of success, but I have not perfected my arrangements yet, so you must excuse for the present more detail."

"And what do your sisters think, with their education and good looks, of turning housemaids?"

"They prefer it to becoming governesses, hospital nurses, telegraph or shop women, even if their youth would not stand at present as an insurmountable obstacle to the first mentioned and most eligible of these professions. As to their education, I consider it as one of the most essential conditions of success in our experiment. They will bring quick fingers, trained minds and steadily acquired methods to bear upon their domestic labor. Do you think ladies and gentlemen seeking homes will be less likely to engage rooms because the attendants are young and not bad looking?"

"No but—"

"You would say that we are too young for house-keeping, as well as for governing and nursing, if we are to attend to all the inquiries of strangers?"

"I had some such thought. Do you propose having no elderly woman to superintend?" and as Mr. Jackson asked this question a somewhat mischievous smile tried to hide itself beneath his iron grey moustaches.

"I had thought that I should prefer to keep the duties of overlooker for myself, but I have spoken to a widow lady, who has been employed for many years as a book-keeper and confidential housekeeper by a city business firm, and who has lately given up her employment on account of failing sight, and she appears willing to come to me if I should need her. Then we have our old nurse Johanna, upon whom I can confidently reckon in every emergency."

"My dear young lady, I congratulate you on your common sense. I thought your father was doing the maddest thing that a sick man's fancy could devise, when he left you unprovided with guardians, in possession of his little wealth; but I think I shall live to see that he was the wiser man of the two. I do not understand American girls evidently. Still, though you have shown forethought do not be too sanguine. Have you made

any calculation as to what your venture will cost you?"

"I have done my best to make an approximate estimate, and I know that nothing but success can save me from the charge of utter recklessness. But in self-defence I will say, I know that we shall have a great success. I am not of a hopeful disposition generally, but I do not see how we can fail in this instance. I know the people upon whom I am about to rely. My sisters have inherited from our mother, who was a German, a love of thoroughness, a conscientious devotion to whatever work they take in hand, that would bring them through harder undertaking than this which we propose in triumph. We have all inherited, too, the love of domestic management, the natural aptitude for house-work which distinguishes the German hausfrau. And this aptitude is not merely a natural gift, it is also the result of training. My father looked on household industry for girls, and gardening or carpentering for boys, as necessary to counterbalance the tendency to excessive mental labor, which he considered the American schools inclined to enforce. My mother looked upon it as the sacred privilege of woman, so that we were sent to the kitchen, to the store-room, and to the kindergarten in the same year, and learned the use of the broom, duster and lexicon simultaneously. Then a long life of affectionate service warrants my trust in our old nurse and general factotum, and Mrs. Norris I know to be trustworthy and benevolent, for I became acquainted with her through going to visit a patient of my father's, a poor consumptive girl whom she had supported for years out of her hard-earned salary."

"Well I hope you will realize your hopes, but have you any idea what part of your capital you will sink in the experiment?"

"About seven thousand six hundred pounds."

"And your whole fortune is only nine thousand pounds, with the exception of a few hundred that you may never recover from your father's debtors. You are remarkably brave or remarkably reckless."

"I must repeat I do not think the risk considerable. We mean to make our home a paying concern."

"Would you mind telling me how you come at your figures? I will, if you allow me, note down what you reckon the expenses to be, and go over them at my leisure, and if I find any great error I shall take the liberty of letting you know."

"Thank you very much. I shall be so glad to feel that some one with more experience than I have, has gone over my calculation, which, of course, are only made as a rough guide. I think I can get the furniture that will be necessary, with the few fittings that I can't induce the landlord to



put up for me, for five thousand three hundred and fifty pounds. I dare say the house alteration will cost a thousand pounds. Then I have allowed three hundred for advertising, and nine hundred and fifty pounds for the first year's rent rates and taxes. Of course we shall make enough by letting the rooms to pay part of the rent, at the worst, but I have not allowed, in the above calculation for wages, interest on capital, wear and tear of goods or depreciation of stock, or for the cost of the family, so we may let it stand. I think these unreckoned expenses may be set down at about another thousand pounds, more or less, so that if we do not get a single customer during the year we shall not be bankrupts, and I will not anticipate any such bad fortune."

"Please give me the items of this last thousand?"

"Wages, reckoning that each of us takes thirty pounds a year for our dress and personal expenses, give Johanna our nurse, the same, and Mrs. Norris forty pounds per annum, for this is what she asks with board and lodging, it will reach the sum of three hundred and ten pounds. Food for ten persons will cost a hundred and ninety-four pounds. Interest on capital two hundred and seventy pounds. Wear and tear of goods and depreciation of stock. I do not suppose this is the correct expression, but perhaps you know what I mean—five hundred pounds."

"Thank you, I see that if you are embarking all your capital, or nearly all on a single venture, at least you are not doing it without careful thought. I shall have very much pleasure in serving such an enterprising young woman and you will have my best wishes and such help as may come from mentioning your undertaking among my clients and friend; and as I am often asked, if I can recommend a good quiet boarding-house, to maiden ladies of nervous disposition, and economical temperament I do not think your rooms will all stand empty the first year."

"Thank you so much. And if I may refer the landlord to you I need not hinder you any longer," and with a quick gesture of gratitude and farewell, Grail Sutton made her way through the narrow passages leading from the lawyer's office, across the quiet quadrangle where a little fountain sent its silvery spray lazily into the heavy air. Then she got into an omnibus going to the city and spent six hours in looking at kitchen ranges reported to have all sorts of possible and impossible perfections, till she had satisfied herself of the various merits and demerits of those in the market, and made up her mind which would answer her purpose best. Many days in succession saw this young woman haunting shops, warehouses, and

stores, asking questions, making notes. Pondering and finally deciding upon the various articles of use and ornament that go to the furnishing and embellishing a house. Meanwhile the four younger sisters worked steadily at their books, making the most of the last months of regular study and uninterrupted leisure, that the fates were likely to afford them. Charlotte and Elsie contrived and fashioned hygienic garments for the whole family, with pretty blue serge dresses, that left the limbs free to move without constraint, and with no trailing skirts to do or undo the work of the broom, and with no tight waist-bands to lessen the strength of body, and of will, for exertion. Opinions were divided for some days upon the necessity of caps. All the girls had beautiful hair and were somewhat unwilling to hide it, but strong-minded Grail, who was not anxious that her fair young sisters should put forth too many attractions, wisely considering that youth and beauty is a perilous, as well as a precious gift, for unprotected maidens, persuaded them that caps were wonderfully becoming to young faces, and quite essential to housemaids, who wished to keep their tresses free from the contamination of dust. Elsie in private confided her opinion that caps would be a good deal of trouble to make and get up, and received in return her sister's secret mind in a quiet "now look Elsie, I want all possible difference to be kept up between our boarders and the girls, or we shall have to shut our doors to all those silly, flirting young Englishmen, but I do not want the girls to get any such notion into their heads. Their free, confident manner will be their strongest protection. Treat men as gentlemen and men of honor, and it will go a long way toward making them such, still Englishmen are not Americans and have not been used to associate as freely as our men with women of their own class, so—let us call wear caps."

[To be continued.]

#### THE GOSPEL OF HEALTH.

Dr. Talmage delivered a memorable sermon early in November last from the text "Till a dart strike through his liver."—Prov. vii, 23. We make the following extract for the young men who read THE ALPHA:

Another practical use of this subject is for the young. The theory is abroad that they must first sow their wild oats, and afterward Michigan wheat. Let me break the delusion. Wild oats are generally sown in the liver and they can never be pulled up. They so preoccupy that organ that there is no room for the implantation of a righteous crop. You see aged men about us at eighty erect, agile,



splendid, grand old men. How much wild oats did they sow between eighteen years and thirty? None, absolutely none. God does not very often honor with old age those who have in early life sacrificed swine on the altar of the bodily temple. Remember, O young man, that while in after life, and after years of dissipation, you may perhaps have your heart changed, religion does not change the liver. Trembling and staggering along these streets to-day are men, all bent and decayed and prematurely old, for the reason that they are paying for liens they put upon their physical estate before they were thirty. By early dissipation they put on their body a first mortgage, and a second mortgage, and a third mortgage, to the devil, and these mortgages are now being foreclosed, and all that remains of their earthly estate the undertaker will soon put out of sight. Many years ago, in fulfillment of my text, a dart struck through the liver, and it is there yet. God forgives, but outraged physical law never, never, never. That has a Sinai, but no Calvary. Solomon in my text knew what he was talking about. He had in early life been a profligate, and he rises up on his throne of worldly splendor to shriek out a warning to all the centuries. David, bad in early life, but good in later life, cries out with an agony of earnestness: "Remember not the sins of my youth."

Stephen A. Douglas gave the name of "squatter sovereignty" to those who went out West and took possession of lands and held them by right of pre-occupation. Let a flock of sins settle on your heart before you get to twenty-five years of age, and they will in all probability keep possession of it by an infernal squatter sovereignty. "I promise to pay at the bank \$500 six months from date," says the promissory note. "I promise to pay my life thirty years from date at the bank of the grave," says every infraction of the laws of your physical being.

What? Will a man's body never completely recover from early dissipation in this world? Never. How about the world to come? Perhaps God will fix it up in the resurrection body so that it will not have to go limping through all eternity; but get the liver thoroughly damaged. Physicians call it cancer of the liver, or hardening of the liver, or scirrhus cirrhosis of the liver, or inflammation of the liver, but Solomon puts all these pangs into one figure and says: "Till the dart strikes through his liver."

Hesiod seemed to have some hint of this when he represented Prometheus for his crimes fastened to a pillar and an eagle feeding on his liver, which was renewed again each night, so that the devouring went on until Hercules slew the eagle and rescued Prometheus. And a dissipated early life assures a ferocity pecking away and clawing away year in and year out, and death is the only Her-

cules who can break the power of its beak or unclench its claw. So also Virgil and Homer wrote fables about vultures preying upon the liver, but there are those here to-day with whom it is no fable, but a terrific reality.

That young man smoking cigarettes and smoking cigars has no idea that he is getting for himself smoked liver. The young man has no idea that he has by early dissipation so depleted his energies that he will go into the battle only half armed. Napoleon lost Waterloo days before it was fought. Had he attacked the English army before it was re-enforced and attacked division by division, he might have won the day, but he waited until he had only 100,000 men against 200,000. And here is a young man who, if he puts all his forces against the regiment of youthful temptations, and the strength of God might drive them back, and he is allowing them to be re-enforced by the whole army of midlife temptations, and when all these forces are marched against him, and no Grouchy comes to help him, and Blucher has come to help his foes, what but immortal defeat can await him?

Oh, my young brother, do not make the mistake that thousands all around you are making in opening the battle against sin too late—for this world too late and for the world to come too late. What brings that express train from St. Louis into Jersey City three hours late? They lost fifteen minutes early on the route, and that effected them all the way, and they had to be switched off here and switched off there, and detained here and detained there, and the man who loses time and strength in the early part of the journey of life will suffer for it all the way through, the first twenty years of life damaging the following fifty years.

#### A PROTEST.

DEAR EDITOR: Almost every third newspaper I read contains a wise homily on woman. These shallow falsehoods are generally written by men, and always ascribe the terrible growth of female ills wholly to female sins, such as corsets, high heels, warm rooms, gum chewing, bustles, etc.

These things we all decry, but there are greater evils on which the men preserve a universal silence, except some noble medical writers. Thank God for such.

I am a married woman and I have a long line of married women for my foremothers and scores of them for my friends. I know whereof I speak, and millions of married women will say "Amen," (under their breath).

It is excessive sexuality and childbirth and abortion that is killing so many women and rendering them and their daughters delicate, miserable creatures.



How many husbands confine themselves to what any intelligent physician could tell them was best for their wives? How many consult their wife's inclination and health in sexual matters, or consult anything else except their own unbridled desires? They say: "It is for man to ask and woman to refuse." A married woman is in no place to refuse. How many of us have seen the way in which many men meet a refusal! It is for woman to ask and man to grant, for he can always do so, and she cannot, without injury to herself.

How can a woman produce healthy children and preserve her own health when her strength is drained night after night, even if she does not have to labor during the day, as most do?

I come of a sturdy race of Germans. My great grandmother died in early married life; my grandmother died in childbirth, at thirty-five, after having borne eight or nine children (some still-born) as rapidly as possible. These were not as strong as the old stock; the men have a slight tendency to consumption; the girls were straight and healthy until marriage. My mother was married at twenty-eight and died at forty, of nothing but the lust of a brutal husband. I am a delicate woman, troubled greatly with nervous and uterine weaknesses. Corsets, hot rooms, etc., have never hurt the health of our race, for we all have been in poor or moderate circumstances, and luxury was not for us; and I am only one case in thousands—but a specimen of the product of the untaught, ungoverned lust of men.

Thousands of women must be sacrificed every year that they may be sated, dying of disease in that "hell upon earth," as B. Butler calls it, the brothel. Thousands more die as wives, murdered by merciless demands upon their delicate sexual organization, by diseases brought home by husbands from their mistresses, by excessive childbirth, by that terrible resort—abortion—invented by man to enjoy without consequences, and sometimes used by despairing mothers who see little hope for their children. But they do not die soon enough; they leave a race of delicate girls to suffer without knowing why, and be sacrificed in their turn.

I have a good-tempered husband, and though he came to me as ignorant as a child of the rights and necessities of a wife, yet he is not so blinded by lust as to be unwilling to learn; and I think if I ever bear a daughter that she will be healthier than her mother, and I pray that she may marry as good a husband as her father is. Thus, and thus only, can the health of American women be reclaimed; but men's hearts are hardened unto the things which if embraced will bring the race to decline and death.

The morals of a nation are its life-blood, so Wash-

ington thought, and the men of to-day are not working to produce healthy children, physically or morally.

A FRIEND OF HUMANITY,

#### MISSIONARY WORK.

EDITOR OF THE ALPHA: I have just discovered the note on the margin of my ALPHA, stating that my subscription expired with the November number. I gladly enclose one dollar for renewal. I would not be without the paper for a great deal, and am continually surprised at the fact that I had not known and profited by it longer.

I had seen occasional references to it, but never a copy of the paper, until a little more than a year ago. This leads me to believe that many subscribers put the paper away out of sight of family and friends, which I consider a serious mistake, and not merely a loss to the paper, but to society.

I keep my latest numbers on my library table, where my growing sons and daughters and visitors may have free access to them and frequently call their attention to particular articles.

I am indebted to it for many helpful ideas and the growth of a "holy boldness which enables me to speak freely upon subjects of vital importance to all, yet which are tabooed even in Christian society.

And it has stimulated me to especial effort in distributing literature showing the extent and horror of the sexual vices of our time.

I have, during the year, used several hundred numbers of the ALPHA furnished me by Dr. Alice Stockham, which I hope have been a source of benefit to readers and induced some to lend their support to the paper. I have sold or given away about three hundred copies of Dr. E. P. Miller's books, "Vital Force," "Father's and Mother's Advice," besides stray copies of Newton's "Better Way," "Pre-Natal Influence," Frederick Hinckley's "Address," and various tracts.

This has been a private work, not connected with any society, because I felt more free to use such books as my own judgment and conscience approved, without risk of bringing criticism upon an organization.

I do a separate work under the W. C. T. U., in which I use thin leaflets on social purity, but which I need not report here.

In circulating the publications *independently* I did not go out of the way of my regular philanthropic work, but took advantage of every opportunity which offered, such as women's prayer-meetings, W. C. T. U., suffrage, or social gatherings, to call attention to my books, of which I always had samples in hand.

As a matter of course, any one who dares to do



such work will be severely and unkindly criticised, but frequent and fervent expressions of gratitude from those whose eyes we have opened, or whose standard has been heightened, far outweighs the wicked thing which the enemies of good may say of us.

I believe that the two points where work is most needed are with the school children and among the best class of married Christians. Strange that there should be any such need here, but the world is suffering for the lack of knowledge on these subjects, and Christians are as ignorant as pagans concerning them. This lack is chiefly answerable in the failure of Christianity to accomplish all that it claims and aims to do.

Many an earnest soul is kept from that conscious communion which it craves and labors for continually, because of wrong practice in the most vital and private relations of life.

To such THE ALPHA is a veritable John the Baptist.

Those being in *honorable wedlock* must be taught the real meaning of the word "chastity," and that every human being has a right to be born by "immaculate conception"—that such was God's design in the beginning, and is still the destiny of the race, notwithstanding the fact that for nearly nineteen hundred years we have failed to apprehend one of the most important truths connected with the birth of Our Saviour.

When this truth is better understood miniature saviors will be born who will follow in the footsteps of the Just One—as no man has yet done, and will rescue the race from their ignorance and sin.

How can we wonder that lust and uncleanness thrive under cover of marriage since the Christian church has given so little teaching on the vital point, but has applied these words, believing that the mere civil and ecclesiastical ceremony constituted a pure marriage, and made usages clean, which were in themselves the very essence of uncleanness.

Let us thank God in our lives that a higher standard has been brought to our view, by disseminating the truth as widely as possible. With every advance of knowledge comes the duty and responsibility of communicating it to our fellow-men.

Ever since you published Mr. Hinckley's noble address I have desired to ask you to give us the one appended to Dio Lewis' book on "Chastity," delivered before the Boston Educational Society. Does the copyright of the book cover the address also?

Invoking God's blessing, and pledging my individual services in the work, I am your indebted and earnest friend and supporter,

GERTRUDE M. SINGLETON,

#### "PRE-NATAL INFLUENCES."

The power that mothers exert over their unborn children, the direct influence of pre-natal culture, and the inevitable results of it are vividly illustrated in the cases of two young mothers, who, during the late war adopted such different modes of living and thinking. Mrs. G. took intense interest in the conflict, she was eager for news of battle and victory, she sang the ballads of the day in a clear, brave voice, and being a fearless rider she was often dashing over the country on a fleet sorrel, who was as spirited and dauntless as herself. Often she was carrying letters to and fro, and, contriving to send woolen socks knitted by her own loving hands to her dear husband and brothers in the C. S. A. Her one theme of conversation was the war, all her thoughts and dreams were of the gallant soldier boys in the army. At this time she seemed to be a changed woman, she was so full of ardent zeal and coolest nerve.

Mrs. W. regarded war as a monstrosity. The heroic side of the picture she could not see, and as there was little conversation going on that was not imbued with the spirit of warfare, she seemed to inwardly retire, and shut out from her life all the heart-rending scenes of that terrible time. In solitary walks through the fields, a heavenly peace came into her heart, and her own spirit seemed to blend in sweet communion with those whom she had loved and lost awhile. Her Bible and prayer-book were her daily companions, and every day some passage of Scripture and hymn were committed to memory. From these she drew a calm courage, her countenance expressed her trust in God, and she was happy in the divine peace that possessed her soul. She never allowed any one to inform her of defeat or victory; it was all one to her, and the thought of battle too horrible to be given a lodging place in her mind. Near the close of '63 each mother gave birth to a son. Mrs. G.'s little son was not slow in giving evidence of an impetuous and venturesome spirit. At the age of fifteen his conversational powers were brilliant, and his utter recklessness superb. Like his mother before his birth, he delighted in breaking colts and riding fiery horses.

Danger was fascinating to him. His favorite literature consisted of the histories of the battles of all countries, and with animated gestures and flashing eyes he would relate in glowing words the stories of bloodshed and sacrifice and valorous deeds. The age of twenty-two found him enlisted as a United States soldier in Arizona, and at twenty-five he has been twice promoted. His sister, several years younger, is a gentle, confiding girl, possessing none of her brother's characteristics. As a birth-right he possesses love of country



and love of danger, and has one of those natures that can not serve God with a quiet mind, but must dare and struggle and fight, May this dear boy be clad in the whole armor of God, and though his way is beset with numerous hosts of mighty foes, may he be more than conqueror and obtain the crown of victory by following closely his Great Commander.

Mrs. W.'s son was patient and thoughtful from his birth. Stately and reserved through boyhood, manhood finds him full of high calm courage and self-reliance, and an unswerving allegiance to his God and Master that wins for him the confidence and esteem of all whom he meets. In a family of six brothers and sisters, who are jolly, laughing chatterboxes, this one is strangely silent; it is a rare occurrence that he expresses a single word unless addressed. He can talk well, but has no desire to, and few can draw him into conversation. He, too, is a great reader and memorizes easily, and, like his mother before his birth, he regards the glory of the battle-field as only barbarous carnage. His face is lovely in its strength and serenity. His parents, sisters, brothers, and servants have yet to hear him utter an impatient word. If ever angered he is silent and enduring.

Thus was the royal gift of a peace-loving soul, full of good will, conferred upon a child born in the very midst of turmoil, within hearing of the cannon's roar and surrounded by the wounded and starving.

May the peace of God be always with him, and the light of His life-giving spirit guide him to a blest eternity.

C. C. W.

#### DEGRADING A SACRED CALLING.

Only this week, right in the heart of Brooklyn, a gross, animal man—a druggist—has been arrested for selling minors prohibited drugs, without a prescription and without a label. He moved here from a poorer locality—and brought along a special reputation for a special class of practice; but it being hard for a woman to enter his store, without feeling greater or less insult from his manner and disgust at his untidy and uncleanly apparel, he was shortly complained of to Anthony Comstock by ladies to whom certain boys belonged, and is now in durance vile.

From what I learn of the state of things as expressed by him, a deplorable condition exists among the young and old regarding sexual matters. Among married women an ignorance of their sex nature, which leads them to escape child-bearing through unholy means; among single women the want of that same knowledge of self which enables them to keep men in their proper place and practice an enlightened self-control, beneficial alike to both; and among lads and young men a state of

sexual thought upon a low plane—that of mere animal desire.

But, thanks to THE ALPHA which has pioneered the way, and to the many good books which treat upon these matters, there is less ignorance than formerly, but still plenty of work to do.

That young lads should endeavor to procure drugs that would tend to excite passions in the opposite sex, or that a druggist capable of conducting a legitimate trade should be willing to sell such drugs to them, shows a state of depravity in both to be regretted.

In the one case we have the unenlightened early promptings of sex, and in the other a desire to make money even at the expense of the well-being of others.

My experience of life has been such that I feel I can say I have seen the extremes of good and evil, and in doing so may be said to have reached a fair degree of wisdom. This experience leads me to be charitable to all; for I know how much heredity, diet, personal habits, environments, training, &c., have to do with the character of any given individual.

Many go down to early graves in their young married life, that have been guarded carefully by loving parents up to the time of their marriage, through seeing in the possession of the object loved right to practice unlimited indulgence.

This surely is not an *unselfish* love, but simply an undeveloped form of that higher and more spiritual affection, which *considers* the object of its love at the same time that it considers itself. We need to lift ourselves above self, if we would emerge into that higher life, grow nearer God and become spiritual rather than animal beings. Though I have the foundation laid for writing upon these matters I have not had the practice; and so for the present stop right here.

W. J. CUSHING.

#### STRUGGLE UPWARD.

##### SELECTED.

Better to struggle and toil up hill,  
Though heart grows faint, and fingers bleed,  
Than rushing go—like the mountain rill—  
Downward, with eager, headlong speed.

Stem the swift tide; never idly drift;  
In life's great conflict strive to win;  
Cling to the oar, in the rapids swift,  
And fight your way from their roaring din.

Pull with a will, strength conquers all;  
Keep up the stream, beware the sands!  
Row for your life—out from the fall—  
Keep to the right with steady hands.

Who can say that you shall not win?  
Watch the beam of the guiding star;  
Steer from the quicksand shoals of sin—  
There, just there, is the harbor bar.

MAY MYRTLE.



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The Alpha is published on the first day of each month, and can be obtained of newdealers, or will be sent at the following rates:

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Six months,	50 cents.

#### Advertisements

The Alpha having a large circulation, and being of a suitable size for binding, is a good medium for advertisements, which will be inserted at the following rates:

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#### Correspondence:

Letters consisting of personal opinions should be not more than half column in length. Letters containing important facts or interesting matter may sometimes be longer.

All communications, books for review, &c., should be addressed to Caroline B. Winslow, Editor of "The Alpha," No. 1 Grant Place, Washington, D. C.

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We send THE ALPHA to no one unless it is paid for, and we discontinue it at the expiration of the time for which payment has been made. Persons receiving it who have not subscribed for it may be sure that it has been sent and paid for by a friend or neighbor, and that no bill will ever be presented for it.

## THE ALPHA.

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FEBRUARY 1, 1888.

No. 6.

"THE WHITE CROSS: Its Origin and Progress," by B. E. De Costa, Sanitary Publishing Company, Chicago, Ill., is a very neat, well written pamphlet, giving a sketch of the struggle against licensed prostitution in England and Europe to the beginning of the work of prevention of vice in youth and children under the White Cross banner. This little work will be most useful to seekers for information as to the objects, desires, and success of the social purity work with the young, its organization, its pledge, its outlook, and its literature. Price, 10 cents.

HARTWELL W. C. T. U. holds its fortnightly meetings regularly for the season at No. 1 Grant Place, 6 o'clock P. M. It is mostly interested in legislation, social purity, hygiene, and mothers' meetings. At its two last meetings Mrs. Wheeler reported on legislation in the District; Belva Lockwood spoke on arbitration and peace; Mrs. L. A. Slaughter spoke on journalism and temperance legislation in Dakota; Dr. Winslow spoke on physical redemption; Mrs. Ada M. Bittenbender sent regrets, and will address the session on Monday evening, January 30, on national temperance legis-

lation; Mrs. Bittenbender will spend the winter in Washington, devoting her whole time to Congress and temperance union meetings.

#### "THE WOMAN'S JUBILEE."

The International Conference and Jubilee will be held under the auspices of the National Franchise Association, at Albaugh's Theatre, Washington, from March 25th to April 1st.

All national organizations of women in all countries are invited to send delegates, each section to have two papers read by leading women. These papers to be discussed by delegates in ten minute speeches.

This ought to be a rich time and we have not a doubt it will be fatness, in which an impetus will be given to the woman's movement that will gather momentum as it moves along and will hasten the greater day of jubilee, viz.: the liberation of woman from political disabilities, domestic slavery, ignorance, and prejudice, and help forward and onward and upward the march of our common humanity. The 25th of March is Sunday; we will begin by praising God for his mercies and marvelous gifts to the children of men; let everybody come.

THE National Press Association held its semi-monthly meeting January 7. A very profitable paper was read by Mrs. Rose on "Industrial Education in Public Schools," with statistics of success where the experiment had been tried. It must soon come to pass that all graduates from public schools must show certificates with their diplomas that they are prepared for self-support and are more or less skillful in some useful occupation. Mrs. M. L. Rayne, of the Detroit *Free Press*, read a paper on "Woman in Journalism," which was stimulating, humorous, and instructive. Mrs. Rayne has opened a school of journalism in Detroit, in which journalism is thoroughly taught. She will establish a similar school in Washington, where young women with literary tastes and ability will have opportunity to thoroughly equip themselves for excellent work in their profession. At the January 21st meeting Mrs. Slaughter read a spicy paper on "The National Press Association" (W. N. P. A.), in which she ingeniously referred to



the labors and life work of each member. Mrs. Emily Thornton Charles read two poems, and Susan B. Anthony delivered a very inspiring speech, showing how rapidly the cause of suffrage and woman's work generally were progressing.

#### THE CALDWELL BROTHERS AND "CHRISTIAN FIFE."

We regret to learn that these pure brave men are beginning to experience the common fate of all that dare to treat unclean and vicious customs with common sense and frankness, and suggest a remedy making the beginning of existence the starting point Heavenward.

The whole family of Caldwells—a mother, two brothers, and three sisters—are compositors, and united in a desire to combat sensuality and establish the kingdom of Heaven on earth by a holy life. This harmonious family have been printing *The Christian Voice* and *Banner of Holiness* for the Rev. L. B. Kent, who is editor and likewise president of the Holiness Association, J. B. Caldwell being secretary of the same association.

Brother Kent has lately become incensed that the Caldwell Brothers should dare to issue *The Christian Life* from the same office as *The Banner of Holiness*. This good work THE ALPHA has noticed approvingly in former numbers, so thorough and radical is it in advocating social purity, a paper excelled by none in this cause, not even THE ALPHA.

Rev. Mr. Kent, like many another well-intentioned person, does not think that holiness demands purity in mind, in heart and in person. So he dissolves business connection with the Caldwell Brothers, and explains himself in the following editorial:

**A DELAYED, BUT MUCH NEEDED EXPLANATION.**—It seems necessary for us to explain a matter that must have surprised many of our subscribers, and that was seemingly not wholly creditable to us.

We refer to the sending, to many, perhaps hundreds, one or more numbers of a new paper called (now) *The Christian Life*. The paper being published by Caldwell Brothers, whom we had engaged for the year 1887 to do our printing and office business, and issued as all would notice, from our office, and coming with *The Voice and Banner*, most if not all to whom it came, would naturally, and almost necessarily conclude, that all was by our consent, and that we so far approved the paper, as to desire that it should be brought to the attention of our subscribers. We are not surprised to learn that

some of our friends have had painful apprehensions as to our soundness of mind and ability to distinguish between the gospel of holiness and the delusive and dangerous notions of unspiritual men, who are ready to advocate the most extreme and anti-scriptural ideas and projects for the elevation, purification, and culturing of man. But we can reassure all that we have neither lost our religion nor our reason though our patience has been put to severe testing by the course pursued by the publishers of the above-mentioned paper. We assure our readers that we have given no word of approval of the new paper, nor of consent that it be sent to any of our subscribers. The publishers having possession of the office had the power, but by no means the right to do as they have chosen to do. Regaining possession and control of the office, we can not do less than explain as we now do, this most mortifying and to us painful matter.

Learning wisdom by what we have suffered, we shall be more watchful in the future, and as far as possible personally control the business office. We bespeak the prayers of all that we may be ever filled with the holy light, and thus be prepared to do the Master's work wisely and well.

We wish we knew just how and upon what authority Mr. Kent claims that the laws of hereditary chastity and continence in marriage are unscriptural, and how the readers of the *Banner of Holiness* can be endangered by studying this subject. Can the *Banner of Holiness* be damaged by specimen copies of *Christian Life* being sent to them, when it cannot be proven that the *Banner* has lost one subscriber through its influence.

#### ANARCHY AGAIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ALPHA: I suppose I should not have dared to introduce anarchy, anarchism, and the anarchists to the columns of your *always* excellent paper, but since you have introduced the subject may I hope for the indulgence of a brief space for a few thoughts thereon? The public press has, with a few exceptions, assiduously cultivated the idea that anarchists are a bloodthirsty class of people delighting in murder, riot and pillage. The common idea seems to be that the men who were recently hung in Chicago threw a bomb, when the fact is that the judge who sentenced them declared that "the bomb was thrown by some unknown person." The assumption was that this unknown person was influenced thereto by the accused. I am not a lawyer. This may be good law. If it is I am an anarchist. Nobody is safe if men can be hung on such assumptions.

Another fact seems to be generally overlooked in the popular outcry against "the ignorant for-



eigners who breed anarchy." Albert R. Parsons, one of the executed men, was a native-born American, tracing his descent back to a Revolutionary hero.

Our dear ALPHA carries at its head "Human rights before all laws and constitutions." What can be more anarchistic than that? It was for just that thought that those noble men sacrificed their lives. Law that is unjust, order bought by slavishness are not desirable. I do not accept the dictum that "order is heaven's first law," for I remember that every reformer, from the time of Jesus and the Apostles to this day, have been accused of being the "enemies of law and order." I am an enemy to the existing law and order, and I wonder that any one looking our country over and watching the effects of our various laws can feel any pride in or respect for our institutions. If prisons, poorhouses, and gallows are matters for congratulation, if one official who has an allowance for flowers alone equal to the wages of forty-five wageworkers is "a sacred institution," if to pension the widows of army officials \$5,000 a year while 60,000 sewing women in New York work for less than fifty cents a day is something about which we must hold our peace. I do not know how to interpret the "Declaration of Independence."

By the way, what awful anarchists King George III. thought those fellows were who signed that declaration. How we glorify the women who cut up their petticoats to make gun wads and melted up their pewter spoons into rifle balls. They were dangerous disturbers of His Majesty's peace and enemies of the law and order he thought it his right to enforce. Does any one suppose that if they had understood the use of dynamite they would not have used it to drive the British soldiers from our shores and maintain what they believed to be their "natural and unalienable rights."

Now please don't understand that I defend the use of dynamite. I do not; though if I were to murder a man I should not feel any more guilty to explode him with a dynamite bomb than to shoot him with a revolver or Winchester rifle or hang him on a gallows. As a Christian, as a student of human nature, I am opposed to the use of physical violence and I believe every form of government established and maintained by force is doomed to destruction. Our Government was so established and is so maintained, therefore I believe it is doomed. I have never been able to comprehend the altitude of mind which can approve the bloody deeds of our Revolutionary forefathers, but stands aghast at any violent demonstration made against the wrongs of the present day.

As the court declared "the bomb was thrown at the Haymarket meeting by some unknown person,"

it does not seem improbable to me that it was done at the instigation of enemies to the labor movement to bring odium on the cause and get "the leaders" out of the way. Let it never be forgotten that the real bomb thrower is still at large and that apparently little or no search was made for him. Had he been a friend of the anarchists would he have allowed five of them to die and three be imprisoned for his act? Such an idea seems absurd on the very face of it. Who, then, did throw the bomb?

If those who have thought they were getting the truth regarding this matter from the daily papers will send to *The Alarm* at Chicago for "Spies' Autobiography and Speech in Court," or for Gen. M. M. Trumbull's pamphlet, "Was it a Fair Trial," or for "The Facts Concerning the Eight Condemned Leaders," by Leon Lewis, they will at least see that there are two sides to this question.

CELIA B. WHITEHEAD.

#### REPLY.

We have read the autobiography of Spies and his speech in court before his sentence, at Mrs. Whitehead's request. We think the style unfortunate. It is stilted, exaggerated, and sarcastic, with very little calmness or argument, which weakens the effect of the narrative materially. If all he says is true, an awful crime has been committed, a crime huge and horrid enough to sink the Nation to perdition. Why did not that large body of organized workingmen investigate and sift this matter to the bottom, demand a fair and just trial? There certainly was no unseemly haste in their trial, their sentence or its execution. That such an immense organization should have remained inert during all the months preceding the final tragedy with a knowledge of this injustice and smarting under defeat and wrong is simply incredible. The American people are not stony hearted; Chicago is not without just and true men and women. We incline to believe this sad tale, but there is so much circumstantial evidence looking in the other direction we know not what to believe. We have a great love for the "peaceable fruits of righteousness." Our battles have been against violence and madness and for a calm, forcible demand for justice. Christian character is not developed by passionate exaggeration or by destruction of life and property. The only reforms we can work in are conducted by reason and order; these develop the moral and intellectual faculties.



If all this "force without order" was expended in the culture of manly dignity which would raise the workingmen above a slavish fear of consequences, when in the line of duty. These laborers, with muscles of steel, to whom the world owes so much for its prosperity and growth, *must* become *true, free men*. The dignity of conscious power should place them above revenge, retaliation, and strife. They must use the ballot as an expression of intelligent firmness, self-respect, and duty. Labor unions or leagues, if united in a holy object, must be a great power—a power sufficiently strong to nominate and elect men for office after their own heart; men known to be pure and honest and devoted to the cause of labor reform. This will make capital respect as well as fear labor. This is to be a brave battle and a bloodless and triumphant victory—a victory more permanent and lasting than can be secured by bombs and dynamite. It will develop self-respect in the workman and a pride in the excellence of his product with a knowledge of its value. With this will come a regard for the rights of others. Whosoever will take up this educational work will prove the true friend of labor and humanity, and will forward the final solution of this now painful problem. Do not think we have no sympathy with labor and its wrongs. We belong to the class known as "the children of toil" and a long line of ancestry marched in these ranks and suffered its wrongs. All our adult life we have been true to our heritage. Whatsoever we have gained of worldly pelf or intellectual culture has been acquired by the closest application and industry.

Our experience convinces us that the kingdom of heaven will never be captured by bloodshed or incendiarism, nor Christ's reign established by hate and revenge. Capital has rights as well as labor, and we only differ as to methods. Both are working for the same results. Human rights before all laws and constitutions.

C. B. WINSLOW.

"There are two conditions of the mind in which toleration lives and flourishes—indifference and doubt."

"Endeavor to cultivate life and belief, and make a harmony of them."—*The Life*.

## MOTHERS' DEPARTMENT.

### "LITTLE SUNSHINE."

Mary Dalton, or as she was generally called, Little Sunshine, was a bright, fairy-like creature with golden hair and deep blue eyes. Whether she trod the earth like common mortals is open to doubt, certainly she seemed to skim along like a bird, or flit like a butterfly, or dart in and out like a ray of light, according to her mood, so airy and noiseless were her movements.

I do not think any one would call her a merry child, but a sweet content beamed from her gentle face, and happiness radiated from her like an embodied presence, till gloom and discontent vanished at her approach.

A poet, seeing her, had said that she was Love personified.

At school she was the best beloved pupil and the idol of her school-mates.

The difficult lesson became clear to the little troubled brain if Mary looked over the book and threw her arm affectionately across the shoulder of the perplexed student.

Little Sunshine was a dreamy little mortal and loved to wander away into the woods, or by the river bank, or to lie beneath the shade of a wide-spreading tree at the bottom of her father's garden and think of the wonders of the earth and air.

One bright summer evening Mrs. Dalton, who had come to look for her little daughter, whose society she dearly loved, found her stretched upon a sunny knoll, lost in happy day-dreams.

"Why Sunshine, my darling, where have you been so long, it is two hours since you left the house and I have been looking for you everywhere?"

"Why mother, dear, my body has been just here all the time but I have been wandering far, far away, over the mountain tops, above the clouds where it is all beautiful fairyland."

"I was wondering and wondering why I was always so bright and happy, and how I came to live with you in this pretty home where all is so sweet and calm, where the days are full of sunshine and the nights full of peace, when some of my school fellows have such different homes and are not at all happy."

"And as I was wondering—I do not know how it happened for I do not remember falling asleep—I seemed to be gently carried up and up a great way till I came to a garden quite different to this. Strange little beings were flitting around, some bright and shining with beautiful colors like a dragon-fly's wing, only a thousand times more brilliant, some in pretty pale tints that reminded one of the early dawn of a wintry morning, some



in gorgeous colors so brilliant and glaring that they nearly blinded my eyes with their dazzling hues, others again were clothed in somber tints, and some in black. These made me shudder when they came near me, I do not know why, for they were not allowed to touch me, a gentle breath always blew them away again if they approached.

"I watched the airy beings skimming here and there for some time till I remember wondering whether, like the insects down here, they had any motive in their wanderings.

"Directly I had asked myself this question something in the air near me, something I could not see, answered 'They are going to change their state, going to be what you call—born, and are looking for homes.'

"Then I wondered whether they could choose what kind of homes they liked, and again the friendly something whispered in my ear 'Do you think all these different beings could be happy in the same kind of atmosphere? You shall judge.'

"Then immediately different currents of air began to circulate round me, of which I was quite conscious though they did not touch me.

"You must understand that my own particular current of air was wrapped round me all the time and stood like a wall between me and these diverse currents, but although I did not *feel* the currents I was quite conscious of them.

"It seems to me that up there we have more senses than we have down here. And the thought came to me that we carry our own atmosphere, our protecting wall, with us wherever we go.

"When a very, very hot air was breathed around all the creatures of most brilliant colors floated in. With a cool air came the beings in wintry-dawn tints. Then with a genial summer breeze the pretty dragon-fly dresses danced around. But for the drabs and browns a chill autumn wind penetrated the place.

"But I can never make you understand the chill dreariness that attracted the black beings. It was as though a blast was sent across the arctic snows, where no ray of blessed sunshine had ever been. But when this icy air was diffused around, the black creatures, that I could scarcely bear to look upon, came swarming in, rushing and hurrying, and tumbling as if they could never have enough of its chill embrace.

"I shall always know now what being in your element means.

"After all these experiments had passed before me, my invisible friend again asked whether I thought all the beings disporting themselves around would be happy in the same atmosphere, and when I had answered by simply thinking, 'No,' for it did not seem necessary for me to

speak, and had begun to wonder how they could find the homes that would suit them by flitting round and round, as they appeared to me to be doing, the Voice said:

"'Like attracts to like. You cannot tell how the insect, in your earth-home, finds its way to its proper food by buzzing round. You yourself were here once and found your proper home, as these beings, who will soon travel the way you have travelled, are finding theirs. Come this way.'

"And following the sweet murmur that won its way into my heart with its tender, loving accent, I found myself looking down through what appeared to be a sunbeam, right into a woman's heart, and there I saw quite plainly a temple not built with hands, and the temple was consecrated to love. And Peace and Righteousness ministered at the altar, and there was spread around a fragrance of good deeds, and I thought to myself how good a home that heart would make for me, and just then you came. I do not quite understand it all, my own mother, but I know it was into your heart that I looked through the sunbeam."

Mrs. Dalton was silent for some minutes, and when Little Sunshine looked up into her face her eyes were full of grateful tears.

Mary thought she heard the words "Out of the mouths of babes—" but still she did not understand, so having relieved her feelings by giving her mother a "good hug," she darted off to meet her father, whom she saw in the distance coming to look for his truant wife and daughter.

K. E. M.

#### INSTRUCT CHILDREN.

It must be that I am growing more and more interested in your noble work. Each number seems to bear a purer atmosphere of truth and Godlikeness. Your recent question, "shall THE ALPHA live or die," struck to my heart as though the life of a dear friend was at stake. I moaned, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I unto thee," and poured out a fervent prayer to Him who is the silver and gold, saying, "Lord, may THE ALPHA live, and do thou give to such as hold the means, the spirit of liberality. May, also, the life and health of its editor be precious in thy sight." I was overjoyed when the new issue came, I so love its principles of purity. Do some call it impure? How indignant I am at such, except a feeling of pity comes in my heart because of their blindness. Sometimes I have been moved to reply, but your fruitful pen does so well I have no need. But I have resolved, in spite of what may be said by those that call white black, that I will throw all my influence ALPHA-wards, and hold to



the view of all, the doctrine of continence, as much for men as for animals is God's decree.

The gentleman who stopped your paper that his children might not read it, made the mistake of his life. My daughter, when a mere child, had been closely watched, scarcely allowing her out of my sight, especially when playing with other children, that she might not learn from other lips than mother's such things as I know children are only too ready to learn, yet deferring it from time to time to keep her little mind free as long as I could, although I knew that truth rightly spoken could not be impure. Like many mothers I neglected my duty too long.

I had taught her to tell me everything she heard and what she did not understand. "I will explain it to you, and should any little girl tell you what is not true, be sure and tell me about it."

We had made a visit where there was a forward child. After our return I found my child restless and sleepless. I said, "what is it, darling, that disturbs you so." She replied, "I do not like to tell you, mamma, for fear you will feel badly." Upon my pressing her farther I was shocked more than I can tell. I will not repeat the vile stuff that had been poured into her ears. How white your ALPHA seems compared with this. I have never been afraid since to teach her your principles. But I was grieved at the result of my procrastination, and could say with the Psalmist, "Rivers of water ran from mine eyes," so inconsolable was my grief. But the distress of the little one compelled me to control my emotions. She sobbed out, "I could not help but tell you, mamma, I knew you would feel badly, I told the little girl I would not believe it till you said it was so." I know THE ALPHA is right, and there is no protection for children, except in parents and guardians teaching them with right instructions. In no department of life is knowledge a power and an armor as in the mysteries of sex. The child that was the informer was not a bad child, but she lived in a neighborhood where vice stalks abroad, and had heard much improper talk from impure lips.

Your fearful friend in July ALPHA, who wished to protect his family from your influence, little dreams of the teachings that grow among children, often not over five or six years old. How much safer that they should receive the truth from the pure and loving lips of parents or guardians.

THE ALPHA lies on my sitting-room table. My daughter reads it and we speak on its topics when circumstances call them up. We know no reserve, daily living with reference to God's glory, glorifying him with our bodies as his. If the spirit of Christ be in us and we speak the truth in his name, how can it injure the heart of us? But if we har-

bor lust in our souls, we may well fear to speak, for it generates its own atmosphere.—D. E. S.

#### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

Almost every one is interested in Christian science nowadays. I have attended several fine courses of lectures, but have not personally known of any cures. I agree entirely with its grand, liberal thought; its stress upon "God, the good" being all, and there being no "room for the evil," the doctrine daily taught in my home since my childhood and enunciated by many writers. Thought transference is a mighty power, indeed. Weaknesses and diseases cannot affect our real selves, though we know heredity is a very interesting study and plays so important a part in O. W. Holmes' and other writings. I inherit my father's hands exactly, not the least difference—shape of nails and all, even to the moles and freckles on the backs thereof. His stomach, too, I inherit. His brain I inherit. I have the same modes of thought on nearly all subjects, and I see the resemblance the more, the older I grow. My head is different from my mother's, and I do not inherit the headaches from which she suffered, or seemed to suffer, according to the scientists. My brother inherits the headaches. We all know that everything, form, features, brain, tastes, powers and weaknesses are inherited from our various near and remote ancestors. The infant son of my friend, a metaphysical teacher and healer, who was daily attending two courses of metaphysical lectures the months previous to his birth, already shows a remarkably developed brain and a correspondingly weak bodily frame. This mother found metaphysics had no healing effect upon him, and the poor baby had three different kinds of drug physicians and is now doing well. He was an Alpha, earnestly-desired and regularly-ordained girl-baby; there were boys enough in the family and he was the girl that was tried again for, after scientific and prayerful, earnest, sweet and holy methods, proving that theories, as to sex, are decidedly uncertain. I hear of wonderful cures performed by Christian scientists. I know one friend had twenty professional treatments, visits, from a well-known Christian science healer, in vain; but it keeps invalids from complaining; its printed rules are that patients should not talk of their ails or allow themselves or others to speak discouragingly of their case or of their "healers," or of Christian science, so there is certainly comfort and healing in that. One Mrs. P. said she could eat strychnine or any other poison without injury. "Do let me give you fifteen drops of this strong aconite," said M., but, strange to relate, Mrs. P. preferred not to take it! Another full believer, as she professed, took quinine so she could be well enough to go to the lectures, and the speak-



ers when hoarse do show a predilection for candy. One says you can cure any sick animal by science, but the minute her pet skye-terrier, who ate up my book, got sick, she rushes off to a drug dog-doctor and pays him three dollars. No doubt mental treatment would have done "doggie" more good. We know the immense benefit derived to each and all in practising Christian science, in putting aside the dwelling upon our sins, sickness, sorrow, or death, and in turning our thoughts resolutely to goodness, health, happiness and life, in saying and feeling "God is my power, I cannot be afraid; God is my health, I cannot be sick." C.

Our correspondent's practical experience is not anomalous. They promise too much and thus lessen the good effect of a beautiful and beneficent theory.—Ed.

#### HEREDITARY TENDENCIES OF ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO THOUGHTS FOR FATHERS.

CONTINUED.

The following by S. S. Hastings on the hereditary effects of tobacco is so excellent that I quote it entire:

"A Christian mother, once asked to aid in the distribution of anti-tobacco tracts, replied:

"Why, my husband smokes, my sons smoke! It is a filthy habit, but it makes them easy and happy, and if they do nothing worse, they may smoke to their hearts' content.' To such mothers the truths below are most worthy of careful perusal.

"Mothers, do you know that tobacco in your families may poison you, your children, and your posterity? Men of sense say little about it as a nuisance. They go deeper; they treat it as a rank poison, which penetrates flesh and blood and bone, becoming part and parcel of man, making him a living receptacle of the virus; a poisoned body, which, whether asleep or awake, at home or abroad, by insensible perspiration, poisons the common air we breathe. The tobacco effluvia of your son is sufficient to make a stage-load of women and children sick, who is not accustomed to it. The tobacco your husband uses each day, made into a tea, and given to a score of children, would poison the whole, and probably lay many of them dead! The effect of a bit the size of a bean, found in a teapot, once alarmed a whole village. It had poisoned the tea, and the tea had poisoned a whole maternal association! These precious ladies found "death in the pot," and they began to suspect that tobacco had killed them, whether it had or had not killed their husbands. Take the water from the tub in which a tobacco devotee has been steaming, apply it to the geraniums over town; it will soon dispatch the vermin, and geraniums too, unless applied with care.

"We are not attempting to show that the users of tobacco injure themselves; this would be superfluous; but do they injure others? Do they injure you and your children? We think they do. Fathers beget children in their own likeness. They transmit their color, features, forms, temperaments, and diseases, and sometimes their appetites. And the idea that the offspring of parents debauched on tobacco, can avoid the disabilities of birth, or avoid an eternal law of God, is ridiculous, is pitiable. Physicians of acumen and sense have sometimes pointed us to family after family of dwarfs and half-idiot, saying in substance, 'These are the inherited effects of tobacco! The parents were sots on the poison; like begets like, and here you have it!' Physicians and others have named the case of infants which actually inherited a taste for tobacco, and their wailings, when a few days old, were appeased by beastly parents applying tobacco to their tongues. If getting married does not reform the tobacco toper, one of its blessed effects ought to do so, for no man ought to poison his babe.

"Mothers, you have lost children; they grew sick and died strangely, and no satisfactory cause was assigned which robbed you of these objects of endearment. But did it ever occur to you that, as soon as born, your babies were enveloped in tobacco smoke, and their tender lungs played in a poisoned atmosphere the instant they began to play at all? Did it ever occur to you that your child, by sleeping with its father, slept with a huge body of poison, perspiring at a million pores, and lodging its exhalations on the babe? Alas! alas! many fathers of tearful eyes and noble hearts have killed their own children without knowing it.

"Mothers! Rachels! you have rebelled against God, you who have filled the air with wailings for children which are no more—children killed by the very one who loves them, the father—are you willing that husbands and sons should smoke to their hearts' content, if they do nothing worse?"

We feel that THE ALPHA is doing a vast amount of good, and wish we had ten dollars to send you instead of one. Had hoped to secure you some new subscribers this summer, and took with us copies and circulated them among our friends, many of whom perused it for the first time. A Mr. L., of New York City, promised to send you his subscription. Hope he has done so, and that many others will also. We preserve all of our numbers and keep them in circulation, thus agitating the subject and enforcing THE ALPHA's teachings, which if put in practice will surely redeem the race from much error, ruin and woe.

We are thankful that you have so many brave assistants, and pray that you may be strengthened to carry on the good work. M. P. S. F.



## IMMORTALITY.

BY SOME accident the article following was mislaid for over a year. It contains some thoughts on the inspiration of the hope of immortality and the value of character building that are worth preserving.—ED.

EDITOR OF THE ALPHA: I presume to address you thus familiarly, because I esteem you as the true friend of all women. The marked copy of the November issue of the incomparable ALPHA is at hand, and the most of it devoured (that is the way a very hungry person does when he comes upon something agreeable to eat); to use a comprehensive phrase, I shall read it all over again more deliberately when I have time.

I saw only one objectionable feature in the whole number, and I beg leave to call your attention to that one.

In Miss Kingsbury's article at the opening of the pamphlet, she charges the doctrine of immortality with being largely responsible for the sin, poverty, oppression and ignorance that exist in civilized countries, claiming that hospitals, orphan, insane asylums and other large benevolent institutions are a sort of insurance to the Briton's property, and of course the same might be said of the rich American.

She seems to think if there were no doctrine of a future life taught people would make a better use of this present world.

I agree with her that a great deal of mischief has been done by false notions of a future life whose happiness depended upon the number of times a person went to church or mumbled manufactured prayers, but if the entire crystal truth were taught, that a future life depended entirely upon the use we made of this, it would not fail, it seems to me, of making the person possessed of such a belief feel that he or she was simply using their gifts as an investment to accumulate character with, that will stand the investigation of the judgment.

It seems to me that the spur would have gone out of existence were there no chance for a reliving, that hand would fail and heart sink, if "Christ be not raised," and if he had never uttered the words which his own resurrection demonstrated were words of authority, "I will raise him up at the last day."

The way to immortality is through a path that ignores the frowns or flattery of the world; the soul that is striving for life is the one that finds its joy in making humanity more God-like; it is as Peter enjoins "established in the present truth," and is the servant "of the present age," not of a musty past.

A great number of church members are so much engaged in securing a nice aristocratic heaven for themselves, that they forget that there are still others who have no title to the blest mansions, but I do not believe that all the humanitarian conditions surrounding the modern inebriate, convict, or lunatic, are wholly due to human selfishness. I believe they have originated in the minds of those who are reaching after the higher life, a "a better country," the "kingdom of the heavens," or whatever these endearing terms signify. It is the joy of "an endless life," that has lured them by its possibilities, to attempt to bring about something of its sublime conditions in this poor stricken world.

The work, however, that you dear ALPHA workers have undertaken is a divine one, inasmuch as you would remove the great underlying cause for the necessity of institutions for the imbecile, helpless or criminal.

I have believed and urged for a long time that crime and misery fatten upon the hordes of unwelcome children; that the slavish crowds are born of mothers who "submit to anything to keep peace in the family," or their husbands from the brothel.

Women may plead their own cause in vain, but when men themselves acknowledge the fallacy of the doctrine that their sexual necessities, are too imperious to be denied without impairing their health or vigor, women may well lift their grief-bowed heads, "knowing that their redemption draweth nigh."

Thank God for such champions of a noble cause as John Stuart Mill and Dr. Gerrish in the last ALPHA.

F. L. BINGHAM.

Riverton, Conn., Nov. 7, 1886.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

DECEMBER 9, 1887.

DR. CAROLINE B. WINSLOW: Yours is a most important work; aiming at the highest standard of morals and social purity. Go on in the name of God. If ever this world is to be regenerated and brought back to God and purity, such as he created man to follow, it must be done through the agency of woman. Man has made saving souls a mercenary object, and the ministry of reconciliation a profession; there is no true philanthropy among men. God pity them; so many of them are still where they were just after the fall. Don't give up your efforts to save men and women from a worse slavery than servitude on Southern plantations. Yours, truly, C.A.M.

SWANTON, NEB., January 11, 1888.

DR. CAROLINE B. WINSLOW: Every time I pick up THE ALPHA I feel like writing at once to let you know my admiration for your brave, pure, paper. There is no reform equal in possibilities to the one you have so heroically undertaken and carried on so long single-handed, but allies are beginning to flock to your support. I have given much study to the "social evil" question and without help from any source worked the problem out to your solution. I was much pleased with your reply to Mrs. Whitehead on "Anarchism." You have gained one life subscriber that I know of thereby. The idea of August Spies being a reformer! Yet I doubt not that the silly Nina has received more sympathetic letters in her short career than you have in all your life of moral educational endeavor.

Fraternally,

MRS. MARY W. WESTCOTT.



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